



**Town of Concord, Massachusetts**  
**22 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742**

## **BFRTAC Meeting Minutes 03-03-16**

### **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee**

March 3, 2016, 7PM

Harvey Wheeler Community Center, Clock Tower Conference Room

### **Meeting minutes from March 3, 2016**

Attendees: Kent Carlson, Judy LaRocca, Judy Perrin, Gretchen Roorbach, Mark Hanson

Absent: Jim Lyon

In attendance members from the public: Marcia Rasmussen, Carmen Reiss

Recorder: Judy Perrin

Call to order: 7:04 pm

- Review Minutes
  - January 7, 2016 – Approved as amended.
  - Updates from Marcia Rasmussen
  - a) **Phase 2A Update:** the Town of Acton has posted a blog about construction activity along Phase 2A at <http://www.acton-ma.gov/Blog.aspx?CID=10>. There is a link to the construction schedule posted on the blog – which takes a person to the 12-page schedule where notes are added for each month. Various submittals are under review. No new construction activity over the winter.
  - **Phase 2B Update:** MassDOT Project Manager Sreelatha Allam reports that the 25% design plan has been submitted to MassDOT by AECOM; a copy of the plan set will be sent to the Planning Office. MassDOT anticipates scheduling the public hearing for mid- to late-May.
  - Additionally, Marcia is preparing a letter from the Concord and Acton Select Boards to MassDOT Executive Director of Transportation Planning David Mohler requesting appropriation of funds from prior Transportation Bond Bills for the next phase of design for BFRT 2B.
  - **Phase 2C Update:**
  - Improvements south of Powder Mill Road – MassDOT Project Manager David Shedd met with Federal Highway to discuss the Powder Mill Road culvert and improvements south of Powder Mill Road. Federal Highway agreed to fund the slope stabilization proposed at White Pond.
    - 1c. MBTA has approved Keolis to install the signals and related work associated with crossing the commuter rail.
    - 2c. Natural Resources Commission – the public hearing for the BFRT Phase 2C project has been closed; an Order of Conditions was reviewed and approved at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
    - 3c. Beharrell Street properties – GPI revised the trail and parking design along the ‘spur’ right-of-way behind the commercial properties at 20, 30 and 40 Beharrell Street to accommodate access to loading docks and equipment.
    - 4c. Right-of-way (ROW) Process - Planning Division staff will begin mailings for the ROW easement/private property acquisition next week (see attached Steps from Acton). Letters and attachments will be sent by certified mail. There are 4 permanent and 20 temporary easements (18 different owners).
- Initial phone call to first appraiser was made last week; will follow up tomorrow. Marcia has an update meeting scheduled with MassDOT Right-of-way Division on Friday, March 18.

5c. Three articles on 2016 Town Meeting Warrant – there are three articles submitted by the Town relative to the BFRT on the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Capital funding of an additional \$250,000; Land Acquisition in accordance with the federal highway requirements that owners be provided fair market value; and, authorization of the Select Board to establish easements over town land for rail trail purposes. The Town Manager has asked Marcia to present these articles.

6c. Historic Interpretive Signs – BFRT Advisory Committee needs to vote or affirm the proposed Historic Interpretive Signs so they can be submitted to MassDOT Historic Resources group for review.

7c. Legislation filed to transfer DOC land to the Town – Senator Barrett and Representative Atkins have filed legislation this week to transfer a small portion of Mass. DOC land on Commonwealth Ave. to the Town of Concord for construction of a small parking area and associated support for the BFRT. Town will be responsible for hiring surveyor to prepare Approval Not Required (ANR) plan for recording transfer of land.

8c. Received list of abutting properties that are encroaching on the ROW: GPI compiled a list of existing readily visible ROW encroachments. There are 27 properties identified; the majority of these encroachments will not interfere with construction of the project. Encroachments that may interfere have been identified and will be addressed during construction.

9c. No further update from MassDOT Real Estate re: Lease agreement, railroad artifacts, insurance and whether the Rail Division expects to send letters to abutting property owners encroaching on the ROW.

- Additional items discussed:

a) Phase 2C 100% drawings are available at Marcia Rasmussen's office, and online.

b) Historic Artifact proposed signage update – Review of signs. Large format signs approved as currently designed pending all the photo permissions.

c) Concord Town meeting (starts April 4, 2016) article support – Reviewed presentation for articles 58 & 59. Article 57 is for \$250,000 for completing Phase 2B design and engineering. The Committee drafted statement of support.

d) Discussion of BFRTAC and expiration dates, number of committee members, questions about maintenance. Due to town meeting, April meeting should be moved to 6:00 pm at CCHS.

**Member Comments / Committee Liaisons / Correspondence**

White Pond Advisory Committee (Jim Lyon) – No update

WPAC/BFRTAC subcommittee (Jim Lyon) – No update

Trails Committee (Gretchen Roorbach) – Gretchen brought up the Trails Committee's questions regarding the White Pond trail stairs and trail location. The committee again decided to defer this discussion until final design is in for the area south of Powder Mill Road.

West Concord Advisory Committee (Kent Carlson) – Presentation about the newly proposed demolition bylaw. Teacakes Plaza discussion. Committee met with Rich Reine, CPW and a representative from Green Thumbs to discuss bump outs near Mandrioli Mini Park. All plans call for raising the level of the Mandrioli park due to drainage issues. Green Thumbs and Garden Club need to work out maintenance/care of gardens. April 28<sup>th</sup> Open House at Harvey Wheeler focused on arts in the West Concord area, it will include Marcia, Rich Reine and representatives from Arts Councils. Twincakes Plaza – The intersection will be more of a T intersection for cars coming down Church Street.

Concord Housing & Development Committee (Judy Perrin) – Marcia R. reported that CHDC is planning a work shop in May to discuss the open space component of their assisted living project. They are looking at funding options, they need 3 million, they have some grant options. Grantham Group is moving forward with permitting for the project. Project proposal should be submitted this spring.

Historical Commission (Mark Hanson) –No Update.

Next committee meeting: April 7, 2016 6:00 pm at the CCHS

Meeting Adjourned: 8:41 PM